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ACTION AREA-11

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INT-07	IS-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	JOSE-00
	I-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	EA-09	I-03	IRSI-00
	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	UM-01	INTE-00	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNF-01	EAPM-01	C-01	FRS-01	P-02	T-01	/071

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FM AMCONSUL PESHAAR

TO SUBSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6004

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

COMMISSION USUN NEW YORK

COMMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PESHAAR 00252

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.C. 12758: DECL:OAD

LAGS: PREL, PGOV, AF, PA

SUBJECT: TWO MUJAHIDIN DISCUSS CONSULTATIVE SHURA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. A CONVERSATION WITH TWO MUJAHIDIN CONTACTS SUGGESTS THAT THE ALLIANCE PARTIES MAY HAVE BEEN NEGLECTING TO KEEP THEIR MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY INSIDE AFGHANISTAN, INFORMED ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND MAKEUP OF THE CONSULTATIVE SHURA, SCHEDULED TO BE CONVENED ON FEBRUARY 10. THE TWO MUJAHIDIN

HAD APPARENTLY HEARD

NOTHING BEYOND DISTORTED RUMORS ABOUT WHO WOULD TAKE PART IN THE

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SEPA, AND THAT IT WOULD DO.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/OCASIR

REVIEWED BY

( ) RELIANCE

( ) VERIFICATION

( ) ANALYSIS

( ) POLICY

( ) COORDINATION

( ) COMPLETION

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TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PARTY LEADERS IN PESHAWAR WERE TRYING TO PLAN  
FOR AFGHANISTAN'S POST-WAR SITUATION. HE SAID HE DID NOT FEEL THE CONVENING  
OF A CONSULTATIVE SHURA, BUT HAD NO IDEA WHO IT WOULD CONTAIN  
OR WHAT IT WOULD DO. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE PARTIES HAD TOLD THEM NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THE  
PLANS FOR A CONSULTATIVE SHURA. HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE WERE  
NOT CONSULTED, THEY WOULD NOT FEEL BOUND BY WHAT THE SHURA DECIDED.  
IF IT CHOSE AN INTERIM LEADERSHIP THE PEOPLE COULD RESPECT THE  
MUJAHIDIN WOULD ACCEPT IT. IF IT DID OTHERWISE, THE PEOPLE WOULD  
RESIST IT.

7. POLICE SAID THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, A CONSULTATIVE SHURA WAS  
ONLY BEING PLANNED BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ESTABLISH SOME FREE AFGHAN  
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS QUICKLY THAT COULD DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS  
OF ARRANGING THE TRANSITION TO A POPULAR GOVERNMENT. THE SHURA  
WOULD SELECT AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION THAT WOULD BE GIVEN THE JOB  
OF ORGANIZING ELECTIONS WITHIN ONE YEAR. THERE WAS REALLY NO WAY TO  
HOLD ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WINTER DURING A  
YEAR. HE NOTED THAT IT HAD TAKEN [REDACTED] OVER A MONTH TO TRAVEL

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[REDACTED] UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS, ORGANIZING AND  
CONDUCTING ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE MANY MONTHS. THE AFGHANS SIMPLY  
COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE THAT MUCH TIME.

8. [REDACTED] HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR HIS EXPLANATION. HE WAS,  
HOWEVER, STILL WORRIED BY THE WHOLE IDEA. THE CONSULTATIVE SHURA  
WOULD HAVE NO POPULAR MANDATE, AND THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE  
INTERIM LEADERSHIP WOULD BE MADE UP OF GOOD PEOPLE. "A BAD LEADER  
CAN DO A LOT OF HARM IN ONE YEAR," HE NOTED, ADDING: "THIS SHURA  
IS LIKE A COVERED POT. WE ARE BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT IT, NOT KNOWING  
WHAT IS INSIDE."

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